

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A tool comprising:
2 at least one substantially flat portion including:
3 at least one slot that opens to an edge of the substantially flat portion; and
4 at least one hole.
- 1 2. The tool of claim 1 wherein the at least one slot is tapered.
- 1 3. The tool of claim 1 comprising a plurality of holes.
- 1 4. The tool of claim 3 wherein the plurality of holes include holes of different sizes.
- 1 5. The tool of claim 1 further comprising a measurement scale near an edge of the
2 tool.
- 1 6. The tool of claim 1 further comprising at least one tapered edge.

- 1 7. A tool comprising:
2 a first substantially flat portion;
3 a second substantially flat portion lying in substantially the same plane as the first
4 portion; and
5 a connecting portion that connects the first and second portions, the connecting
6 portion extending above the plane of the first and second portions.
- 1 8. The tool of claim 7 wherein first portion comprises at least one slot that opens to
2 an edge of the first portion.
- 1 9. The tool of claim 8 wherein the first portion further comprises at least one hole.
- 1 10. The tool of claim 8 wherein at least one slot is tapered.
- 1 11. The tool of claim 7 wherein second portion comprises at least one slot that opens
2 to an edge of the second portion.
- 1 12. The tool of claim 11 wherein the second portion further comprises at least one
2 hole.
- 1 13. The tool of claim 11 wherein at least one slot is tapered.
- 1 14. The tool of claim 11 further comprising a measurement scale near an edge of the
2 tool.
- 1 15. The tool of claim 11 further comprising at least one tapered edge.

1 16. A tool comprising:
2 a first substantially flat portion, the first portion including at least one tapered slot
3 and at least one hole;
4 a second substantially flat portion lying in substantially the same plane as the first
5 portion, and second portion including at least one tapered slot and at least one hole; and
6 a connecting portion that connects the first and second portions, the connecting
7 portion extending above the plane of the first and second portions;
8 a measurement scale near an edge of the tool;
9 at least one tapered edge;
10 wherein the first portion, second portion, and connecting portion are
11 monolithically formed from a substantially transparent plastic.

- 1 17. A method for protecting an area of material during an operation, the method
2 comprising the steps of:
3 positioning a tool in proximity to the operation overlying the area of material, the
4 tool comprising at least one substantially flat portion including at least one opening; and
5 performing the operation.
- 1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the material comprises wood, and the operation
2 comprises a woodworking operation.
- 1 19. The method of claim 17 wherein the operation comprises drilling, and wherein an
2 opening in the tool is positioned over a desired hole location, the step of performing the
3 operation comprising the step of drilling the material through the opening in the tool.
- 1 20. The method of claim 17 wherein the operation comprises screwing, and wherein
2 an opening in the tool is positioned over a desired screw location, the step of performing
3 the operation comprising the step of screwing the screw through the opening in the tool.
- 1 21. The method of claim 17 wherein the operation comprises nailing, and wherein an
2 opening in the tool is positioned over a desired nail location, the step of performing the
3 operation comprising the step of pounding the nail through the opening in the tool.
- 1 22. The method of claim 17 wherein the operation comprises setting a nail, and
2 wherein an opening in the tool is positioned over a nail head, the step of performing the
3 operation comprising the step of pounding the nail head with a nail set with the tool in
4 place.

1 23. The method of claim 17 wherein the operation comprises pulling a nail, and
2 wherein the tool is positioned near a nail head, the step of performing the operation
3 comprising the step of pulling the nail out of the material in a manner that a nail puller
4 contacts the tool while pulling the nail out of the material.

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